

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

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R 131614Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7580

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, BBAK, NL, FR

SUBJECT: DASSAULT REPRESENTATIVE'S TRIAL FOR ATTEMPTED BRIBERY

REF: THE HAGUE 776

1. TRIAL OF DASSAULT AMSTERDAM REPRESENTATIVE BOTTERMAN FOR ATTEMPTED BRIBERY ENDED FEB 12 WITH PROSECUTION (SIC) ASKING FOR ACQUITTAL ON GROUNDS OF LACK OF EVIDENCE. PUBLIC PROSECUTOR LAMBASTED PIET DANKERT AND WIM KEJA (PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO TESTIFIED TO BRIBERY ATTEMPTS) FOR THEIR PERFORMANCES IN COURT. SHARPEST WORDS WERE FOR DANKERT, WHO PUBLIC PROSECUTOR SAID HAD SEEMED TO ENCOURAGE DASSAULT IN ITS OFFERS. HIS STORY COULD LEAD TO CONCLUSION THAT HE "WAS NOT ALTOGETHER UNWILLING TO ACCEPT SOME REWARD FOR HIS RECOMMENDATION TO GO TO PURCHASE THE MIRAGE."

2. WHEN STORY OF ALLEGED BRIBERY OFFERS SURFACED IN 1974, DASSAULT REPUTATION AND COMPANY'S CAMPAIGN TO SELL THE MIRAGE WERE THE OBVIOUS LOSERS, ALTHOUGH FOUR-NATION CONSORTIUM'S

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DECISION TO PURCHASE THE F-16 CERTAINLY DID NOT TURN ON THAT

ISSUE. WHILE DASSAULT NOW WILL NOT WIN PLAUDITS FOR STORIES OF HOW IT LOBBIED FOR THE MIRAGE, IT HAS NOT BEEN DAMAGED MUCH MORE BY THIS TRIAL. IN GENERAL, DASSAULT'S ADMITTED WINING AND DINING OF POLITICIANS IS RECOGNIZED AS NORMAL BUSINESS PRACTICE--PERHAPS NOT TO BE APPLAUDED, BUT NOT TO BE FLATLY CONDEMNED EITHER. THE COMPANY HAS, ON THE OTHER HAND, CATEGORICALLY DENIED THE BRIBERY CHARGES, AND DUTCHMEN ARE BEING TREATED ON PRACTICALLY DAILY BASIS TO LOCKHEED ADMISSIONS OF BRIBERY ON A MUCH LARGER SCALE AND AT HIGHER LEVELS.

3. THUS, PIET DANKERT, CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IN LOWER HOUSE EMERGES AS BIG LOSER IN AFFAIR. PUBLIC RAKING OVER HE RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR MAY HAVE ENDED HIS POLITICAL CAREER. IT SEEMS INCONCEIVABLE THAT HE COULD STILL BE CONSIDERED AS A PROSPECTIVE CABINET MEMBER, AND LABOR PARTY MAY NOT EVEN WANT CONSIDER HIM AS PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE IN FUTURE ELECTIONS.

4. COURT'S DECISION ON CASE TO BE HANDED DOWN IN TWO WEEKS. GOULD

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